



ACQUISITION AND
TECHNOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)

SUBJECT: Space Heater Policy

I am very saddened by the recent deaths of two Army Soldiers from carbon monoxide poisoning during a training exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. I know that the use of space heaters was suspected in these deaths and that various Army organizations have had concerns over the use of unvented space heaters during the past several years.

I would appreciate if you could provide me a briefing, during the next 30 days, on the findings of the investigation of the Fort Irwin deaths and the current Army policy on space heater use. Please include an update on any Army research efforts on the Safety and Health implications from the use space heaters burning various fuels. I am also interested in any recommendations on the need for a Department of Defense wide policy on space heater use or other protection measures.

I look forward to working with you to prevent any future loss of life from space heaters.

Your staff can contact Mr Craig Schilder, my Assistant for Safety, at (703) 604-1512 or craig.schilder@osd.mil or LTC Brett Armstrong, my Special Assistant for Military Operations at (703) 604-1766 or brett.armstrong@osd.mil to coordinate the briefing.

Curtis M Bowling
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
for Force Protection

